

EPA will make its fee waiver determination based upon the information you provide to the following 6 factors. If additional space is needed, please attach your justification with your FOIA request.

Factor 1. The subject of the request: The subject of the request concerns “the operations or activities of the government” as it is a review of the United States Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA) activities and operations regarding three Superfund sites in Johnson County, Indiana, along with its interactions with other federal and state government agencies.

Factor 2. The informative value of the information to be disclosed:

The informative value of the information to be disclosed will contribute to the understanding of government operations and activities. We are requesting a file review of the entire administrative records in order to completely assess the requested documents and USEPA’s and other related agency activities pertaining to the Webb Wellfield, Amphenol Products Company Plant, and Atterbury Reserve Forces Training Area sites. The entire administrative record is meaningful and informative about government operations of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, other state and federal health agencies, and many other departments of the government.

This meaningful information about the government operations will contribute significantly to increasing public understanding of the operations and activities of the USEPA, its Superfund program, and the investigative/remediation process of the Johnson County, IN and Region 5 Superfund sites. The information is not duplicative nor is it substantially identical in any way, and only by a comprehensive and complete review of the administrative records of the requested sites can we identify documents which are not included in the repositories, and help local and state officials develop a community involvement plan.

Factor 3. The contribution to an understanding of the subject by the public is likely to result from disclosure:

This request will significantly contribute to public understanding of the Superfund process as well as the individual investigative history/remedial progress of each of the aforementioned sites. The documents that are hereby requested are going to be reviewed by qualified technical advisors, environmental engineers, and scientists, then summarized and disseminated to a broader public venue. This will substantially lead to a greater understanding of the requested materials by a broader audience of community members and stakeholders. The information gathered from the requested documents will be distributed through newsletters, fact sheets, online websites, and through direct mail to wealth-challenged families that do not have access to digital media. The EWA has worked on and chaired Community Advisory Groups, Restoration Advisory Boards and other Stakeholder Groups and for over twenty years, and was honored with the USEPA Region 2’s Environmental Quality Award in 1996 for its tireless advocacy for Superfund cleanups in New Jersey. The EWA has also provided and continues to provide technical support and disseminated information to environmental justice community groups for over two decades.

Factor 4. The significance of the contribution to public understanding:

The requested documents will be disseminated to the public in simple-to-understand language, that will allow the public to have meaningful participation with the EPA and other government officials. Review of the administrative record will allow EWA to create fact sheets, newsletters, presentations, and host meetings, to ensure that the upcoming community meetings proceed with success, efficiency, and an understanding of EPA’s role and process in the onsite remedial investigation and actions. Public participants, stakeholders, and elected representatives can use the material generated from the file review, at no cost to the public, to better communicate with EPA Region 5 representatives at the meetings.

Factor 5. The existence and magnitude of a commercial interest:

There is no commercial interest in this FOIA request, nor will any entity making the request receive compensation for the review and dissemination of requested materials. The requestor (EWA) is a 501©(3) federal non-profit organization and will not derive any income or financial benefit from the documents requested.

Factor 6. The primary interest in disclosure:

There is no commercial interest in the request for a fee waiver of the document review, as the Edison Wetlands Association is a 501©(3) federal non-profit, and the public interest will be significantly served by the disclosure of the documents and the granting of a fee waiver. Many of these documents requested have never been reviewed by media or any entity and disclosed to the public, and there is significant public interest in this site. The USEPA and this FOIA request will serve as a major component of technical advisors' source of documents and data for review.